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ALCOA PREMIERE

"CRY OUT IN SILENCE"

(formerly: "The Lost Chords")

Teleplay

by

Alvin Boretz

Story

by

Fred Remington

PROPERTY OF:

AVASTA PRODUCTIONS

PLEASE RETURN



ALCOA PREMIERE

"CRY OUT IN SILENCE"

FADE IN

1 EXT. THEATRICAL DISTRICT - NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT - (STOCK) 1  
ESTABLISHING SHOT of the brightly lit marquees.

2 MED. CLOSE - A MARQUEE 2  
We read:

LAURA FERRIER  
IN  
"A DOLL'S HOUSE"

CAMERA PANS DOWN and we are looking at the stage door. A group of people, autograph seekers, are clustered outside the door, waiting for the star to emerge. Their books are very much in evidence. FRED ASTAIRE detaches himself from the edge of the crowd and walks a few feet under the marquee, in front of the lobby entrance. A blurb billboard sign is in front of the theatre. Laura's photo is in the center, and the critical quotes surrounding it are raves:

THE PERFECT NORA  
A CLASSIC PERFORMANCE  
A TRUE IBSEN HEROINE

We don't see too much of this billboard now, since CAMERA is FEATURING Astaire.

ASTAIRE  
A broadway star...that is Laura  
Ferrier.

(he looks at the  
billboard)

The elusive intangible called  
star quality might have been  
created by Laura herself. Molded  
together out of infinite grace  
and relentless desire, she is a  
heroine who has created two parts  
for herself. One begins when the  
curtain rises...and another...  
when it falls.

CAMERA GOES PAST him to billboard and CLOSEUP of LAURA.

DISSOLVE

3 INT. STAGE - NIGHT - MED. CLOSE - LAURA 3  
Dressed as Nora, facing TORVALD, her husband. The setting  
is their parlor.

CONTINUED



LAURA

I have waited so patiently for eight years for I knew very well that wonderful things don't happen every day. Then this horrible misfortune came upon me, and suddenly I felt quite certain that the wonderful thing was going to happen at last. When that letter was lying out there, never for a moment did I imagine that you would consent to accept this man's conditions. I was so absolutely certain that you would say to him...publish the thing to the whole world. And when that was done....

7       **CONTINUED** (contd) 7  
David reaches the dressing room and opens it.

8       **INT. LAURA'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT** 8  
**DR. RAND** is in the room. In his forties...alert, warm.  
He turns as David appears in the doorway. Laura's voice  
is heard faintly for a moment, as the door is open.

**LAURA'S VOICE**  
...but for what might happen to  
you...when the whole thing was  
past...as far as you were  
concerned....

**RAND**  
Hello, David.

Door is closed and they shake hands. David is curious,  
almost impatient.

**DAVID**  
Dr. Rand.

**RAND**  
Thanks for coming down.

**DAVID**  
I've been trying to figure out  
what you wanted.

**RAND**  
Frankly, I didn't want to involve  
you. I tried to find some of  
Laura's close friends but...  
                    (a beat)  
she doesn't seem to have any.

**DAVID**  
I could have told you that. But  
why'd you call me? What's wrong?

**RAND**  
I hadn't realized what a secluded life  
she really does lead. And now,  
I'm afraid it's going to get  
worse.

As David's curiosity and impatience increase:

**DAVID**  
Dr. Rand....

**RAND**  
I just want you to know that I  
really did try to find someone  
else.

(contd)

**CONTINUED**



8

CONTINUED

(contd)

8

RAND

(contd)

Someone who could help her. It's  
unfair to tell an ex-husband...  
especially a man like you...  
who won't evade the responsibility.  
But I've no choice.

DAVID

(very impatient)

What is it?

RAND

Her first complaint was a few  
weeks ago. A strain in the  
voice...then a hoarseness. I  
took a biopsy. Even after I was  
certain...I called in other men.  
The entire larynx has to be  
removed.

DAVID

(stunned)

Her voice....

RAND

There's no way out. Either she  
loses that...or her life.

HOLD on David...sick.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER